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April 5, 1990

UM LAW FELLOWSHIPS FOCUS ON TRAINING IN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SERVICE

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana School of Law has received a \$32,000 grant from the U.S. Education Department to fund two fellowships that will prepare students for tribal government public service and related public service to Indians.

The one-year grant, part of the Patricia Roberts Harris Public Service Fellowship Program, is for entering law students and can be renewed by UM for up to three years. Winners of the Patricia Roberts Harris Indian Law Fellowship, which is entirely funded by the federal grant, will receive \$10,000 plus tuition and book money. Besides regular course work, they'll study Indian law and tribal government public service. The program will combine practical and theoretical experience in Indian law.

"Indian tribal government public service has become one of the most significant public service fields in Montana," says Brenda Desmond, a visiting assistant professor of law who, with law Professor Margery Brown, runs UM's Indian Law Clinic.

Tribal governments on Montana's seven Indian reservations manage resources and offer many public services, Desmond says. Those services include a tribal justice system that exercises criminal

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jurisdiction over Indians and civil jurisdiction over Indian and non-Indian residents.

Congress established the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship Program after her death in 1985. One of the most prominent black women in recent history, she held two cabinet positions in the Carter administration, was the first black woman to be a U.S. ambassador and was the dean of Howard University's law school.

Interested students should call Desmond or Brown at 243-4311.

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